

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: FORMER SAUDI OIL MINISTER TARIKI PONTIFICATES ON
U.S. AND ARAB OIL

1. FORMER SAUDI OIL MINISTER ABDULLAH TARIKI, SOMEWHAT
OF A BETE NOIRE IN THE 60'S BECAUSE OF HIS AT THAT TIME
RADICAL VIEWS ON OIL MATTERS, HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN
LIVING IN KUWAIT QUIETLY, WORKING AS HEAD OF A SMALL
PETROLEUM CONSULTING FIRM (ARAB PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS)
SPECIALIZING IN THE STUDY OF OIL RESERVOIRS. ONLY
OCCASIONALLY MENTIONED IN THE PRESS, WE HAD THOUGHT THAT HE
WAS STICKING TO TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, BUT AN ARTICLE OF HIS
PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 7 EDITION OF THE KUWAITI DAILY AL-ANBA
INDICATES THAT THE OLD TARIKI IS STILL AROUND AND
KICKING. BECAUSE HE PROBABLY COULD STILL BE CONSIDERED AN
OPINION MOLDER OF SORTS, A SUMMARY OF THE ARTICLE, ENTITLED
"THE U.S. AND ARAB OIL", FOLLOWS.

A. THE FIRST AMERICANS IN THE ARAB WORLD, THE

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MISSIONARIES, WERE SINCERE, AND THEY WERE LOVED. THOSE THAT
FOLLOWED, THE OIL CONCESSIONAIRES, PROTECTED THEMSELVES,
THEIR GARDENS AND THEIR AIR CONDITIONED HOMES WITH BARBED
WIRE AGAINST ARABS, IRANIANS, AND SHEEP. THE OUTLOOK TOWARD
THE AMERICAN STARLEND CHANGING, ESPECIALLY AFTER AMERICA
SIDED WITH ISRAEL. TODAY, AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S ENERGY MESSAGE
AND THE CIA ENERGY STUDY SHOW, THE BURDEN OF WORLD OIL

CONSUMPTION FALLS ON THE ARAB OIL FIELDS, ESPECIALLY IN SAUDI ARABIA.

B. U.S., THROUGH SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IN 1948, 1967 AND 1973 HAS SHOWN THAT IT DOES NOT MERIT THE PRIVILEGED ACCESS IT HAS TO ARAB OIL. ARABS, TARIKI SAYS, SHOULD TREAT OIL AS A STRATEGIC SUBSTANCE, JUST AS AMERICANS TREAT URANIUM AS A STRATEGIC SUBSTANCE. THE ARABS SHOULD THEREFORE CONSERVE IT BY USING SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO MAKE THE OIL LAST AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, AND THEY SHOULD EMPLOY SURPLUS FUNDS FROM OIL SALES IN ARAB COUNTRIES LIKE SUDA, SYRIA, IRAQ, EGYPT, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURAL, TOURISTIC AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS EXIST. FOLLOWING LEAD OF CIA STUDY, TARIKI SAYS ARABS SHOULD RECALCULATE THEIR ESTIMATES OF OIL RESERVES, WHICH WERE DONE IN 1960'S USING "PRIMITIVE METHODS", SINCE THEY MAY OVER-STATE ACTUAL RESERVES.

C. "ALL OUR BEHAVIOR," TARIKI SAYS, IS DIRECTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT U.S. AND ISRAEL HAVE IMPRESSION THAT ARABS ARE ENEMIES TO NO ONE, "NOT EVEN THOSE WHO USURPED OUR HOMELAND AND HELPED OUR ENEMIES IN THIS USURPATION. THIS WEAK POLICY MAKES THEM DESPISE US AND WANT MORE ABDICATION OF RIGHTS." CORRECT POLICY, TARIKI ARGUES, IS TO "FORGET ABOUT ISRAEL NOW (PALESTINE WILL BE RESTORED ONE DAY. REMEMBER THE HISTORY OF THE CRUSADES) AND DO YOUR BEST TO DEVELOP YOUR COUNTRIES." "OUR FUTURE YEARS SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC BUILDING UP OF THE ARAB HOMELAND," TARIKI CONCLUDES. "OIL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WEAPON WE HAVE. SPARE IT. AS AMERICA HAS SIDED WITH ISRAEL, USE IT AGAINST HER IN THE BATTLE."

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2. COMMENT: TARIKI IS OBVIOUSLY FRUSTRATED AT NOT HAVING A PIECE OF THE IMPORTANT ACTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST RELATED BOTH TO OIL AND THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. HE MAKES AN EFFORT FROM TIME TO TIME TO SALLY FORTH INTO THE ARENA ON A RADICALLY CAPARISONED HORSE, BUT EACH TIME HE FINDS NO ONE TO JOUST WITH HIM AND RETURNS TO THE QUIET STABLE FROM WHENCE HE CAME.
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